is really guilty before he is sent out of service. It may not be expedient to act on suspicion. If you remember cases in history, periods when the system of spying was in vogue, you may also remember the large number of innocent victims who were made to suffer on account of what was called secret evidence. Government should see that an honest officer is not hounded out of service by a combination of persons who in the security of secret information may prop up charges against him and make statements which perhaps cannot be really sifted for truth. Subject to these limitations, Government are always prepared to take action against any officer who is found to be corrupt. That is a statement which I made last year and also this year in the course of the replies.

As regards the first point of your representation, I shall answer after hearing other members.

192. Responsible Government.

MR. R. S. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) said at the outset that he did not agree with those who demanded the immediate establishment of Responsible Government in the State, nor could he join the ranks of those who considered that the formation of a Cabinet of ministers consisting of officials and non-officials or the establishment of an Executive Council responsible to the legislature, would be a blessing to this small State and be a remedy for all its ills, political or otherwise, for all time to come. A careful examination of the political, social and economic conditions obtaining at present in the country, with the numerous communities quarrelling among themselves in the scramble for the loaves and fishes of offices, the present economic depression and the ever present spectre of unemployment of educated men and women should dissuade one from demanding any unnecessary, unsuitable or complex additions being foisted on the existing Governmental machinery. At this juncture, when the financial strain was so very keenly felt and when efforts were being made to effect retrenchments in the salaries of high officers, it would be unwise to plead for the establishment and the consequent multiplication of the number of high officers, who, however, were not at all needed for the efficient working of the Government. It was possible, even with the existing Governmental machinery, to attain responsible Government in the fulness of time. The Government had only to see that nothing impeded the natural growth of responsible Government in the State.

One of the factors which was likely to be a bar to the attainment of responsible Government was the anomaly that existed in regard to recruitment to public service. In the scramble for appointments and promotions in public service, the ill-feeling of community against community manifested itself in the bitterest form. It was true that the position of the Government as the arbiter of the several warring communities was a delicate one indeed and that they were attempting to tackle the problem as satisfactorily as possible. It was an admitted fact that the principle of representation in public service on communal basis was calculated to exert a baneful influence on the services with

the result of their demoralisation. By this it was not meant that the claims of unrepresented communities for adequate representation in public service should be overlooked. But communal representation should not be attempted to be achieved at the sacrifice of efficiency. This principle should be followed by the Government at least in the promotions in public service as far as possible.

The member next said that the attitude of the Government representatives in the Districts and Taluks, towards the general public was far from satisfactory. These local officers showed a general apathy in giving a willing and patient hearing to those who approached them with grievances. These officers should be instructed to show more consideration to the public. Lack of responsibility shown by the district authorities in submitting lists of persons for nominations to the Municipal Councils, the Village Panchayats, the Bench Courts, etc., was another matter which deserved notice. The Dewan Peishkars, who were asked to send up the lists, entrusted the work of preparing them to the Tahsildars, who in turn entrusted it to the *Proverthikars*, so that the lists prepared and submitted to the Government were practically of the *Proverthicars*. No proper enquiries were conducted in regard to the strength of the several minor communities or in regard to the suitability of the candidates recommended for nomination. As a result, communities deserving nomination were left out, while ineligible candidates from communities already represented by election were recommended for nomination. As an instance, the member cited the nomination of members from the Nair and Krishnanvake communities to the Padmanabhapuram Municipal Council, though those communities were represented in the Council by election and though there were other unrepresented minority communities, who had repeatedly memorialised to the Government for proper representation on the Municipal Council. The member trusted that the Government would be more considerate in such important matters and requested that every officer of the Government, whatever be the limits of his sphere of work, should be made to feel his sense of responsibility towards the public.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subramonia Pillai, in regard to your representation on the general question of responsible Government, I shall give a joint reply.

You said that the Dewan Peishkars do not bestow personal attention to the matter of putting up before Government a panel from which members of Municipal Councils and Judges of Panchayat Courts may be selected. I can say from personal knowledge that Peishkars do not recommend or put up names except of persons whom they have personal acquaintance with. It is only after personal examination of the qualifications of the people that names are put up. That is what happens in many cases. There may be one or two rare cases of exceptions. But I can say that, as a general rule, Peishkars attempt to make themselves personally acquainted with the persons whose names they put forward. I shall consider your suggestions in the light of that practice.